



*A Beacon of Hope ~ A Promise of Mercy*

*Presence ~ Service ~ Treasure*

*Blessed Trinity Catholic Community*

*January 20 ~ Stewardship 2019*

## *Blessed Trinity Finance Council Concerns*

**T**his is the time of year that your Finance Council begins to worry about the future. We made the goals of the mid-year budget this year because of your generous stewardship commitments and record-breaking Christmas donations. Thank you so much. We truly appreciate your financial support. We remind our members that this past year we lost several family members who completed their life's journey with us, and some others who decided, for various reasons, to transfer to other parishes. These losses will impact our financial picture. However, on a more positive note, we have gained several new family members who will blend in nicely with our loving parish family.

Council members build the parish financial budget using three different data bases. We can pretty much anticipate what the expense side of the budget will look like from historical data and from new line items that will be needed during the next year. The income side of the budget relies heavily on stewardship donations and other income categories which can be estimated from our historical income data base. The process then

proceeds where we marry the estimated income budget with the expected expense budget to come up with the final budget plan. The marrying process is not as easy as it sounds. The unknowns are always many, so our discussions on some line items are long and difficult, but never heated, and we always do come to an agreement on all issues.

The Council believes that another stewardship campaign in the weeks ahead is necessary to get a better handle on what the stewardship income will be for next year. The donations we received from our parish members last year will not cover the parish expenses for next year. All supplies and services have gone up in price. We are sure you have noticed this fact in dealing with your personal finances. Consequently, the Council will be asking our parish families to make an even greater sacrifice this coming year and share more of their family treasure with the parish.

A review of our last stewardship campaign showed some interesting results. Most parish members who made a

stewardship commitment in the campaign shared more of their treasure. The Council appreciated that fact. It was interesting that the group which responded was only a small percentage of our total parish families. The vast majority of our parish families did not even pledge a commitment to stewardship! Some of our parish members have a very limited income which reduces their ability to participate and we understand and appreciate that fact. However, the remainder of the parish families should be able to provide some estimate of committed financial support. Perhaps it is a privacy concern. If so, that subject will be addressed later in this article. It is most likely that the big hindrance to greater parish financial support today continues to be society's love of materialism. The Church does not have the power of advertising that commercial enterprises possess. The only encouragement that the Church can use to compete for some of your treasure is to urge people to make the right choice of how best to use their earthly treasure. More succinctly, would one rather spend a life time of enjoying material items here on earth, or, spend more of their treasure to improve their chances of enjoying an eternal life with Christ? There has to be a balance in your sharing somewhere. Thus, we ask all families to take a look at their spending habits and modify them so that you can share more of your treasure with our Church and community. Please try.

In summary, all families are asked this year to fill out a card during the campaign and make a commitment of financial support no matter how limited your financial means may be. This data will give your financial team a better estimate of the stewardship income for next year. If your concern is privacy, rest assured that Jim McDonald, Financial Services, and Father Ed are the only people who know the exact donations from

individual parish families. The Council members know only the aggregate amounts donated on weekends and from other income sources, and that knowledge is sufficient for them to meet their management responsibilities. The annual report sent to you for tax purposes are prepared by Jim and signed by Father Ed (*you will receive this report at the end of January 2019*). Also, Jim is supported by three counting teams who take turns totaling the donations from the weekend Masses. Their work does not give them sufficient exposure to total family donations. Carol Lemieux, Office Administrator, is only aware of stipends that are offered for Masses, funerals, and weddings, and for contributions for various parish events. The information above should relieve you of privacy concerns.

Again, we ask that you please participate in the up-coming stewardship campaign and increase your financial support each week. If an unexpected setback happens and you can't respond financially for awhile, we understand. Don't worry about it. Just join back in when you can.

Thanks, and God Bless!



Dale Barnum,  
Blessed Trinity Finance Council Chair



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